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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Hampshire Veterans Home Receives Notice of Priority Status for a \$1.67 Million Dollar Grant Request from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

TILTON, NH – December 17, 2003 – The New Hampshire Veterans Home has received notice from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that its \$1,671,000 grant request received priority status ranking for FY 2004. The grant was requested under the State Home Construction Program and will enable the New Hampshire Veterans Home to upgrade the existing sprinkler system, improve dietary facilities, renovate the resident recreation room and construct a new maintenance building. The New Hampshire Veterans Home's request was ranked 8th out of a total of 100 applications that were submitted. The total project is estimated to cost \$2.570,000. Pending final grant approval, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will provide \$1,671,000, and the State of New Hampshire will contribute the remaining \$900,000.

Commandant Barry Conway commented, "We are very excited about our priority ranking for this project. We will be working diligently over the next few months to complete our submission of materials and obtain final approval." Applicants under the program must submit final grant requirements by July 15, 2004 in order to qualify for a grant award in FY 2004.

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About the New Hampshire Veterans Home

The New Hampshire Veterans Home ("NHVH") was initially established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. Today, the modern facility in its countryside setting is home to 150 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

As a professional health care provider, NHVH offers a full range of services including residential, medical/dental and nursing care as well as physical/occupational therapy, recreation, and dietetic and social services. Chapel services, exercise groups, arts and crafts, shopping trips, live entertainment and various community outings support residents' quality of life. NHVH also offers inter-generational programs and animal-assisted recreational therapy.

Dedicated staff members work in partnership with volunteers from surrounding communities and numerous veteran service organizations to enrich our residents' lives. NHVH recently completed construction of a 100-bed Life Enhancement Dementia Unit that will serve the long-term care needs of veterans who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related memory impairment disorders. The facility addition will enable NHVH to provide comprehensive long-term care services to a total of 250 Residents. Construction of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit began in April 2002. The project is part of the State Home Construction Program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs contributed \$7,150,000 of the total project cost of \$11,900,000. The State of New Hampshire contributed the remaining \$4,750,000. MorrisSwitzer Environments for Health, Inc. based in Williston, Vermont was the architect for the addition. Harvey Construction Corporation of Bedford, New Hampshire served as the project builder.

Additional information is available online at our website www.nh.gov/veterans